

and impact of environmental factors on women's health and their offspring. It also authorizes the Director of this institute, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, to establish a comprehensive program to conduct research on the impact of hormone disrupting chemicals affecting maternal and child health.

We need to research the impact of these chemical pollutants now. Only then will we have the information we need both to detoxify and also to prevent developmental disabilities and other environmentally related diseases in future generations.

Let's pass this legislation. Let's clean up our environment. Let's clean up our bodies, but most importantly, let's not permit our babies of the future to be polluted before they are even born.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I was not in Washington, DC during the week of June 27–July 1, 2005 due to a family obligation. My father had bypass heart surgery and I was with him and our family in Arkansas during that time. Below are the recorded votes that were taken in my absence and how I would have voted had I been present.

On Monday, June 27, 2005—rollcall No. 322, “yea”; and rollcall No. 323, “yea.”

On Tuesday, June 28, 2005—rollcall No. 324, “yea”; rollcall No. 325, “nay”; rollcall No. 326, “nay”; rollcall No. 327, “nay”; rollcall No. 328, “nay”; rollcall No. 329, “yea”; rollcall No. 330, “yea”; rollcall No. 331, “yea”; rollcall No. 332, “yea”; rollcall No. 333, “yea”; rollcall No. 334, “nay” and rollcall No. 335, “yea.”

On Wednesday, June 29, 2005—rollcall No. 336, “yea”; rollcall No. 337, “nay”; rollcall No. 338, “yea”; rollcall No. 339, “yea”; rollcall No. 340, “yea”; rollcall No. 341, “nay”; rollcall No. 342, “yea”; rollcall No. 343, “yea” and rollcall No. 344, “yea.”

On Thursday, June 30, 2005—rollcall No. 345, “yea”; rollcall No. 346, “yea”; rollcall No. 347, “yea”; rollcall No. 348, “yea”; rollcall No. 349, “yea”; rollcall No. 350, “yea”; rollcall No. 351, “yea”; rollcall No. 352, “nay”; rollcall No. 353, “yea”; rollcall No. 354, “yea”; rollcall No. 355, “yea”; rollcall No. 356, “yea”; rollcall No. 357, “yea”; rollcall No. 358, “yea”; rollcall No. 359, “nay”; rollcall No. 360, “yea”; rollcall No. 361, “yea” and rollcall No. 362, “yea.”

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF R&B SINGER LUTHER VANDROSS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of legendary R&B singer, humanitarian, and community activist, Mr. Luther Vandross, who died on Friday July 1st after health problems resulting from a stroke in 2003. Mr. Vandross was a Grammy

award winning artist whose deep, lush voice on such hits as Here and Now and Any Love sold more than 25 million albums.

Arguably the most celebrated R&B balladeer of his generation, his music provided the romantic backdrop for millions of couples worldwide. In an era of sexually charged and explicit lyrics, Mr. Vandross spoke to love and romance with heartfelt emotions.

Even without gaining the crossover success which he sought, Mr. Vandross sold over 25 million records. He won eight Grammy Awards and many other accolades including the American Music Award, Soul Train, BET, and NAACP Image awards. He ranked as one of the most successful R&B singers of the 1980's and broke through to even wider commercial success in 2003 with his last album, Dance With My Father, which earned four Grammy Awards and has generated worldwide sales exceeding 3 million copies.

Luther Ronzoni Vandross was born in 1951 into a New York City family steeped in the musical traditions of gospel and soul. He was the youngest of four children, reared by a single mother after the death of his father when Luther was still a boy. He began his career writing and performing jingles for television commercials. But his biggest early break came when he landed a job as a backup singer for the British artist David Bowie, who later hired him to work on vocal arrangements for the album Young Americans.

After breaking into the music business Luther worked for artists from Bette Midler to Barbra Streisand as a highly sought-after backup vocalist and arranger. His 1981 debut album, Never Too Much, reached the top of the R&B charts and sold more than one million copies. Through the 1980's, he recorded a string of platinum albums, including Forever, For Always, For Love, Busy Body and The Night I Fell in Love.

Luther Vandross had a career that most singers only dream about and has served as a source of inspiration for people throughout the world. Especially among his musical peers, writing songs for musical icons such as Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, Whitney Houston and Dionne Warwick.

He was a native New Yorker and before his funeral services on Friday, July 8th, a hearse carrying the singer's remains took him for one last tour of Harlem, pausing outside the Apollo Theater before heading west to the church. Before achieving stardom, Vandross had twice finished second at Harlem's famed Apollo theater and both the city and theater always maintained a special place in his heart.

Luther Vandross' accomplishments in life speak to his character and personality. He was a loving individual known for his kindness and generosity as well as his musical accomplishments.

He leaves to cherish and celebrate his life, his loving and devoted mother, Mary Ida Vandross, several nieces and nephews and millions of loyal fans.

OFFICIAL OBITUARY SUBMITTED FROM LABEL J RECORDS

Luther Ronzoni Vandross, the silky-voiced R&B crooner who spun romance into hits like “Here and Now” and “Any Love,” died on Friday, July 1st, 2005 at John F. Kennedy Medical Center in Edison, NJ. He was 54.

With a smooth yet soulful delivery, the highly admired singer/songwriter/producer has sold in excess of 30 million records worldwide, winning eight Grammy Awards, nu-

merous Soul Train, BET, NAACP Image and American Music Awards.

He ranked as one of the most successful R&B singers of the 1980s and broke through to even wider commercial success in 1989 with the Best of Luther Vandross, the Best of Love, which included the new song “Here and Now,” his first Grammy winning hit which became a signature wedding song.

Born in New York City in 1951, Luther was the youngest of four children. In 1972, a song Vandross wrote, “Everybody Rejoice,” was included in the Broadway musical “The Wiz.” But his biggest early break came when he landed a job as a backup singer for David Bowie and created vocal arrangements for the hit album Young Americans.

Luther soon became a sought-after backup vocalist and arranger, working for artists from Bette Midler to Barbra Streisand, and he helped pay the bills as one of the most popular jingle singers of the time. His 1981 debut, Never Too Much, reached the top of the R&B charts and sold more than one million copies. Through the 1980s, he recorded a string of platinum albums, including Forever, For Always, For Love, Busy Body and The Night I Fell in Love. His last album, Dance With My Father received 4 Grammy Awards (including Song of the Year for the title song “Dance With My Father”) and has generated worldwide sales exceeding 3 million copies.

Luther was also a prolific writer and producer for such musical icons as Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, Whitney Houston and Dionne Warwick thereby fulfilling a lifelong dream. “When history books are written, I’d like it to be said that I am one of the premiere singers of our time,” said Vandross in an interview with BET.

He leaves to cherish and celebrate his life, legacy, and wonderful memories a loving and devoted mother, Mary Ida Vandross, nine nieces as well as eight great nephews, three great nieces and a circle of close friends and colleagues, his musical family and millions of loyal, supportive fans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 14, 2005, I was unavoidably detained and rendered unable to vote on H. Res. 356, condemning in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks in London, England, on July 7, 2005. Had I been able to vote, I would have voted “yea.”

IN RECOGNITION OF DICK KURTENBACH

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the achievements of Dick Kurtenbach, the former Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Kansas and Western Missouri and tireless advocate for the constitutional rights of Americans. Mr. Kurtenbach retired on June 30th, 2005 after 20 years of distinguished service to

the ACLU and his community. For this reason, I rise today to honor and celebrate his life achievements.

Dick Kurtenbach's tenure with the American Civil Liberties Union has been prolific for the Western Missouri and Kansas region as well as fruitful for the entire Nation. He oversaw notable litigation, such as *Cruzan v. Director of the Missouri Department of Health*, which was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1990. The ruling was a victory, by recognizing that patients are entitled to the fulfillment of their end-of-life care wishes. More importantly, the case raised much needed public awareness towards the importance of living wills, medical proxies, and other means of documenting those wishes and was lauded as a success by supporters. However, Dick's unwavering commitment to the values of liberty didn't always make him friends. In 1989, while I served on the City Council, his office filed suit on behalf of the Missouri Knights of the Ku Klux Klan arguing that the Kansas City, Missouri City Council had violated the Klan's First Amendment rights by denying them access to rant on a public cable TV channel. I remember being interviewed with Dick on "The Today Show" in New York City. As we walked out of the NBC studios, it was obvious that he was painfully uncomfortable having appeared to side with a group like the Klan. All I could do was put an arm on his shoulder and say, "Hey, I understand what you're doing and why." It is a tough job but he has done it time and time again. Dick's steadfast refusal to compromise on something as precious as our civil liberties is representative of the purity and character of the American way.

Dick Kurtenbach had been the Executive Director of the Kansas and Western Missouri ACLU since 1985 and was responsible for their original merger. Prior to that, he was the Executive Director of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union from 1979 through 1985. He has worked on several Senate and Congressional campaigns, as well as for the Nebraska Democratic Party. Dick is a veteran of the United States Army, having served on active duty from 1967 to 1970, including 15 months of service in Southeast Asia. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Kansas City Civil Rights Consortium, The Human Rights Project, and the Western Missouri Coalition Against the Death Penalty. Dick graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a Bachelors of Arts degree and is married to Joette Pelster.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Dick Kurtenbach, not only for his unwavering efforts to preserve the tenets of our Constitution, but also for his courage in defending the individual rights of citizens, no matter how unpopular or difficult. I urge my colleagues to please join me, in congratulating Dick on his retirement as Executive Director of the Kansas and Western Missouri American Civil Liberties Union, and in celebrating his invaluable contributions and sacrifices to the cause of freedom.

H.R. 2745, THE HENRY J. HYDE
UNITED NATIONS REFORM ACT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to H.R. 2745, the Henry J. Hyde United Nations Reform Act of 2005.

The United Nations is a critical multilateral organization that provides a vital and necessary forum for the U.S. to advance our Nation's foreign policy priorities as well as to improve and strengthen development, security and human rights around the globe. As an original founder and a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the U.S. has an opportunity to shape the direction of future reforms and continue our important role of pursuing multilateral solution to the world's most challenging problems. Or, as this legislation appears intent upon achieving, the U.S. can withdraw support from the United Nations and watch from the sidelines as the world body withers, leaving our Nation isolated and at risk. The latter approach, I believe, would be a dangerous and foolish mistake.

For sixty years, the organizations and programs operating under the umbrella of the United Nations have been working to improve health, food security and human rights around the world; combating terrorism, narcotics trafficking and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; encouraging and empowering the protection of rights for women, workers, ethnic and religious minorities and persons with disabilities; and enhancing the security and upholding peace in areas devastated by conflict. The feeding, sheltering, and protection of millions of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide, many of whom might not be alive today without such help, has also be a vital United Nations function. The sum of this work carried out by the United Nations, this very difficult work, has been a monumental achievement, much of it funded by the generosity of the American tax payer, that has improved the lives of billions of people and made our world safer, healthier, more peaceful and more just.

This legislation before the House, H.R. 2745, is deeply flawed. It would mandate drastic cuts to the U.S. funding obligation to the United Nations, unless the U.S. Secretary of State can certify compliance with 39 far-reaching, and detailed, reforms. Unfortunately, many of these reforms apply to related agencies that are out of the management authority of the United Nations Secretariat. In addition, this bill would put ongoing peacekeeping missions, and U.S. involvement in future missions integral to our national security, in jeopardy.

Reforms are needed at the United Nations. The debate on the floor clearly reflects that Democrats and Republicans agree on this fact. However, the U.S. has an opportunity, and I would say a responsibility, to play a positive and constructive role in reforming the United Nations, in a way that promotes greater transparency, more effective decision making, greater emphasis on oversight of the bureaucracy and a clear standard of accountability among member states for their conduct with relations to human rights.

The Henry J. Hyde United Nations Reform Act fails to provide the resources, the time,

and the flexibility to allow reform to be carried out correctly, as needed to sustain this great organization. This legislation blatantly puts politics before peace keeping and threatens to undermine the important leadership of the U.S. in the eyes of the international community.

The State Department strongly objects to key provisions of this bill including the key principle of linking of U.S. dues to United Nations reforms. Rather than starve the United Nations by unilaterally cutting support, I support the rational and reasonable alternative legislation, the bipartisan Lantos-Shays alternative to H.R. 2745, that would eliminate the mandate for funding cuts and empower the Secretary of State to withhold funds if suggested reforms are not met. This substitute appropriate encourages the U.S. to work with other nations to achieve real and lasting United Nations reform.

MR. JACK THOMAS' ARTICLE
FROM THE BOSTON GLOBE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to bring to the attention of my colleagues an article from the June 20, 2005, Boston Globe about two legendary figures in Massachusetts politics. "The Loner in Winter," by Jack Thomas, gives us an update on the former mayor of Boston, Kevin White, and former State treasurer Bob Crane. White and Crane came out of the same political environment that produced larger-than-life personalities like Tip O'Neill, Joe Moakley and Silvio Conte. As the article shows, Bob Crane and Kevin White have developed a great friendship in politics that has lasted over 40 years.

Kevin White was the mayor of Boston for 16 years, from 1967 to 1983, and his friend Bob Crane served as State treasurer for 26 years. They became friends in the 1960s while campaigning together in western Massachusetts and have been close ever since. During his tenure in Boston, Kevin White was simply the best mayor in America. When I became mayor of Springfield, I looked to Kevin for advice and guidance, and he always steered me in the right direction. For young mayors seeking to make their mark, Kevin White was the role model to which we all aspired. He helped make Boston the great city it is today.

Mayor White is now suffering from Alzheimer's, but he still commands the room, with his remarkable presence and sparkling personality. Bob Crane also had a remarkable public career as treasurer, but is also known as a great singer and entertainer, specializing in the Irish songs that form an integral part of the Boston Irish political culture. When Bob was in office, he brought his musical talents and singing group, the Treasury Notes, to nursing homes and other centers to entertain the elderly, and he still does so today, as well as appearing at select political gatherings. Beyond the music, Bob exemplifies the cardinal virtue of loyalty in politics, and no one is more loyal to his old pal, Kevin White, than Bob Crane. When politicians gather in Massachusetts, Bob makes sure that Kevin is there and is honored for the great mayor he was and great American he is.